

REMARKS

This Response is offered in reply to the office action of December 27, 2007. A petition and fee for a one (1) month time extension are enclosed.

Applicant is now required to elect among invention group I claims 1, 3-9, 18, 24-25, 28-34, 51, 53, 54-56, and 58-59; invention group II claims 43-49, and invention group III claim 57.

Applicant hereby elects the invention group I claims 1, 3-9, 18, 24-25, 28-34, 51, 53, 54-56, and 58-59 in order to respond to the office action.

Applicant believes that this restriction requirement is quite unfair at this point in prosecution in that Applicant had previously prosecuted the pending claims to allowable condition with full examination by the previous examiner. Applicant asks for similar favorable action on the elected claims.

Applicant is also now required to elect among Species I through VIII set forth on page 4 of the office action.

Applicant hereby electes Species III of the embodiment of claim 24 in order to respond to the office action. Claims 25, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, and new claims 60 and 61 are believed to read on Species III.

Applicant again believes that this species restriction requirement is quite unfair at this point in prosecution in that Applicant had previously prosecuted the pending claims to allowable condition with full examination by the previous examiner. Applicant asks for similar favorable action on the elected Species III.

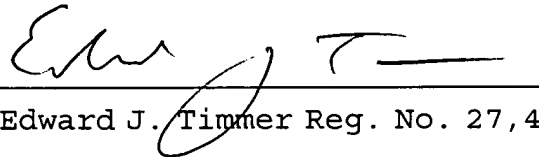
USSN 09/886 965

Applicant requests that the examiner rejoin and consider claims to the other non-elected species once a generic claim is found allowable.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee in connection with new claims 60 and 61 to my deposit account No. 20-1124.

Favorable action is requested.

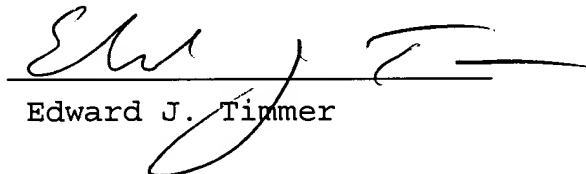
Respectfully submitted,

  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service under 37 CFR 1.8 as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 20, 2008.

  
Edward J. Timmer